

Europe District surveys earthquake damage in Turkey

The Turkish Base Exchange on Incirlik Air Base in Turkey was damaged in the June 27 earthquake. A team of engineers from Europe District recently evaluated structural damage to buildings on the base caused by the quake.
(Photo by Gordon Simmons)



A team of Europe District engineers recently assisted in providing structural evaluations for Incirlik Air Base in Turkey, following the June 27 earthquake.

Europe District Structural Engineer Gordon Simmons, and Project Engineers Sam Baxter and Maj. Mike Tilko from the TUSEG Area Office surveyed the damage.

Structural evaluations were done on the base exchange, the base chapel, the Golf Pro-Shop, the Hazmat Facility, the Adana Catholic Church, the elementary school, the high school, and the gymnasium.

“Ninety-five percent of the damage on the base was superficial, non-structural and not life threatening,” said Simmons. “Primarily, there was a lot of cracking of the architectural elements such as the plaster and infill masonry walls.”

The base exchange sustained a fair amount of damage, according to Baxter, which required the quick development of a JOC delivery order so repairs could be made.

“The walls surrounding the Power Zone were severely damaged and the area was determined unsafe,” said Baxter. “The interior wall behind the shoe store across the entire width of the base exchange was unstable. We installed a temporary wall

so the facility could be opened and still be safe for the public. The temporary wall allowed the contractor to perform demolition and install new walls at a later date.”

Following structural evaluations of the base facilities, Simmons commented that the buildings constructed by the Corps of Engineers in the last ten years received minimal to no damage in the earthquake.

The base hospital, which was also constructed by the Corps, received insignificant damage in the quake, according to Baxter.

“The hospital survived the quake with zero down time and insignificant damage,” said Baxter. “In addition, the control tower which is currently under construction sustained only minimal damage — and the new bowling and youth centers reported no damage.”

Baxter added the quick recovery work was a cooperative effort by the Corps of Engineers, the Base Civil Engineers, the contractor and the base exchange manager. Two structural engineers and one electrical engineer from the Corps’ Seattle and Los Angeles Districts have also arrived in Turkey to assist with the efforts and are currently collocated with the Base Civil Engineer Office.